



**Dallas County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
General Membership Minutes for Monday, June 15, 2026**

Welcome & Introductions:

Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM. Attendees provided customary introductions, including representatives from the Dallas County Criminal Justice Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Office, Pretrial Services, judiciary, municipal agencies, and community-based organizations. Commissioner Garcia welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the importance of continued collaboration among justice system partners to address ongoing operational challenges and system improvements.

Membership & Infrastructure:

Chief Igo was unable to attend the meeting, membership and infrastructure matters were therefore deferred to the next meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

The CJAB General Membership minutes from March 23, 2026, were distributed to members in advance. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Jeff Segura and seconded by Ms. Christina Dean. With no corrections, changes, or objections, the motion carried unanimously.

Presentation:

Restoration and Reentry Division – Dallas County Public Defender's Office

Commissioner Garcia introduced Brianna Gordon, Liz Harris, and Jordan Pollock of the Dallas County Public Defender's Office to provide an overview of the newly established Restoration and Reentry Division. Ms. Gordon explained that the division was created to assist clients in successfully transitioning out of the criminal justice system and reintegrating into the community. The division had been operational for less than two months and was developing its procedures while beginning to serve clients.

Ms. Gordon explained that the division's work is organized into four primary areas: pre-incarceration, during incarceration, post-incarceration, and supervision stability. She noted that the Public Defender's Office already provides holistic representation through attorneys, case managers, social workers, and mental health professionals; however, the Restoration and Reentry Division was

established to address additional legal and practical barriers that can affect a client's ability to successfully remain in the community.

The division's pre-incarceration and early-intervention efforts include addressing outstanding municipal warrants, Class C citations, child-support matters, and other unresolved legal issues that may create additional barriers for clients. Ms. Gordon explained that addressing these matters early can help prevent individuals from accumulating additional legal problems or returning to the justice system for relatively minor or unrelated offenses.

For individuals who are incarcerated, the division assists with matters including TDCJ dismissals, pleas in absentia, time-credit issues, parole preparation, and other legal concerns that may affect a client's transition to the next stage of the justice system. Ms. Gordon explained that the division seeks to address these matters before they become additional barriers to release or require unnecessary transportation between correctional facilities and Dallas County.

Liz Harris discussed the division's post-incarceration services, describing the process as addressing the question of "you just got released, now what?" She explained that individuals returning to the community may need assistance with expunctions, Class C and traffic matters, identification documents, driver's licenses, professional licenses, and reinstatement of Social Security or disability benefits. The division seeks to help clients resolve these issues so they can pursue employment, housing, benefits, and other opportunities necessary for successful reentry.

Ms. Harris emphasized that successful reentry extends beyond legal assistance and requires connections to housing, employment, substance-use treatment, mental health services, and other community resources. Stable housing was identified as a significant challenge for many individuals returning from incarceration. The division is therefore developing relationships with community organizations and service providers to connect clients with appropriate resources rather than duplicating services already available in Dallas County.

The presenters also discussed supervision stability and the importance of addressing problems before they result in violations or renewed incarceration. The division is working to identify barriers that may prevent clients from complying with supervision requirements and to connect them with legal and community-based assistance. Ms. Gordon explained that the division is initially serving a manageable number of Public Defender clients so that staff can establish procedures, evaluate outcomes, and determine the resources necessary for future expansion.

The presentation concluded with a discussion regarding partnerships and coordination among attorneys and community organizations. The division is exploring partnerships with organizations such as Unlocking Doors and other service providers to strengthen its referral network. Members also discussed

situations in which clients have multiple attorneys handling separate matters, including criminal, appellate, immigration, or family-law cases. The presenters explained that the division provides clients with information regarding the scope of its representation and emphasized communication among attorneys. CJAB members expressed support for the division's holistic approach and its potential to reduce barriers to successful reentry and future justice-system involvement.

Committee Project Updates:

Criminal Justice Administration & Jail Population Management

Ms. LaShonda Jefferson reported that the June 2026 Jail Population Committee meeting was held June 12, 2026. The May 2026 average jail population was reported at approximately 7,096 individuals, with a year-to-date average of approximately 7,092. The jail population at the time of the meeting was 7,128, representing approximately 95 percent of total capacity. During June, approximately 2,585 individuals were booked and 2,700 released, resulting in approximately 115 more releases than bookings.

Ms. Jefferson highlighted the Jail Population Management team's individualized and proactive approach to reviewing people in custody from booking through release. The team researches cases across the criminal justice system to identify issues that may delay release or case progression, including matters affecting individuals without counsel, those represented by the Public Defender's Office or private counsel, parole holds, probation matters, and both pre-disposition and post-disposition cases. Since April 2023, the team has researched approximately 124,605 individuals. Approximately 34 percent, or 42,808 individuals, required a Jail Population Management inquiry, and approximately 19,575 individuals were released following the team's involvement. The average length of stay decreased by approximately 50 days following intervention, representing a substantial financial impact for the county. Ms. Jefferson also reminded law enforcement agencies of the importance of timely case filing following an arrest. She announced that the next committee meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2026.

Ms. Jefferson shared that Dallas County will honor probation, pretrial, and parole officers on July 22, 2026. The training will focus on understanding exploitation, responding to sex trafficking, and trauma. Sponsorships were still being sought because of increased costs and budget constraints.

Fair Defense

Ms. Christina Dean reported that Public Defender's Office leadership recently participated in training regarding the Miami Model and remains committed to identifying opportunities to move individuals out of the criminal justice system more efficiently. The office continues to participate in legislative work and is exploring bond practices, particularly the use of Article 17.032 mental health personal recognizance bonds. The Public Defender's Office planned to meet with Pretrial Services to determine whether additional screening or procedural

changes could increase the use of mental health PR bonds as an early diversion mechanism into outpatient treatment, assisted outpatient treatment, and treatment courts.

Ms. Dean also reported that the Restoration and Reentry Division is operational and developing its initial client base. The office is working with Unlocking Doors to pursue funding and establish a brokerage relationship for community services. In addition, the Public Defender's Office is participating in a Juvenile Justice Task Force with the District Attorney's Office, County Administration, Dallas ISD, the International Rescue Committee, Cafe Momentum, and other community partners. The task force is identifying additional community programs that can provide alternatives and expedite services for juveniles with appropriate needs. The office is also developing an internal training division and seeking two attorney positions to support recruitment and comprehensive training of new attorneys.

Justice of the Peace

Judge Valencia Nash was unable to attend and no update was provided.

Juvenile Committee

Michael O'Brien, representing the District Attorney's Office Juvenile Division, reported continued collaboration with probation and law enforcement agencies. Beginning in July and August, the District Attorney's Office plans to meet with school districts and school resource officers to provide legal education, discuss examples and scenarios, and reinforce procedures designed to protect youth rights and promote safe and appropriate case handling.

Mr. O'Brien reported that the juvenile detention population, excluding youth awaiting placement, has remained at approximately 100 or fewer individuals. The office and probation meet weekly to review youth on an individual basis and identify opportunities for release or alternatives to detention. He emphasized that the reduction in low-level filings is intended to avoid unnecessary system involvement while maintaining appropriate responses for youth with higher-risk or significant criminogenic needs.

Mr. O'Brien also reported encouraging 2025 outcomes, including a 40 percent decrease in homicides involving juveniles, a 33 percent decrease in sexual assaults, and a 39 percent decrease in weapon-related offenses. Mr. O'Brien stated that early indications from the alternate referral process suggest that more than 70 percent of youth diverted through the process are not returning to the system. Juvenile hearings also decreased by approximately 20 percent from 2024 to 2025, allowing courts and system partners to focus resources on youth requiring greater intervention and support.

Law Enforcement and Jurisprudence

Ms. Ellyce Lindberg provided an update concerning deflection, diversion, and the Miami Model. She referenced materials included with the meeting packet that

explain the terminology, roles, and stages of the various diversion and deflection processes. She emphasized that successful diversion requires not only an appropriate decision at the front end, but also meaningful follow-up and support after release. She noted that Dallas County already has several diversion programs and that continued coordination is necessary to connect individuals with mental health, housing, substance use, and other services.

The discussion included the use of Homeward Bound and Austin Street as alternatives to arrest for individuals whose circumstances may be better addressed through services. Judge Kim Nesbitt discussed the current use of criminal trespass as an initial offense eligible for deflection and the possibility of expanding the program to other misdemeanor offenses. Law enforcement representatives were encouraged to provide input regarding offenses that could appropriately be considered for expansion while balancing community safety and business and neighborhood concerns.

The Board also discussed the practical challenges law enforcement agencies face when transporting individuals to service locations. Members noted that a future northern Dallas County location would improve access for agencies that cannot easily travel to existing facilities. The discussion referenced funding efforts to identify a northern location and continued collaboration with Austin Street, Homeward Bound, and other service providers. A rapid-response nurse model was also discussed as a pre-arrest engagement strategy for individuals experiencing impairment, mental health concerns, or other circumstances that may contribute to repeated contacts with law enforcement.

Pretrial Services

Mr. Jeff Segura reported that Pretrial Services has experienced a modest increase in its caseload, particularly within electronic monitoring. He noted that the number of individuals released through the program on Mondays has increased from approximately six or seven to approximately 13 or 14, and the overall electronic monitoring population has increased into the 570 range. Mr. Segura explained that the Mental Health Unit is testing a revised staffing structure in which case managers and duty officers have more clearly defined responsibilities. The purpose of the pilot is to determine whether assigning dedicated personnel to complete interviews will improve efficiency and consistency. The department plans to evaluate the approach after one to two months.

Pretrial Services continues to work with judges and the Criminal Justice Department on release initiatives and bonds. Mr. Segura also reported that the department is monitoring legislative developments through its state-level professional organization. He noted that a study concerning the effectiveness of electronic monitoring and appropriate caseloads is underway, with results expected in the future. The findings may be useful to Dallas County and other pretrial and probation practitioners.

Reentry

Christina Melton-Crain was unable to attend. Ms. Gamez provided an update indicating that the reentry team is coordinating with the Dallas County Public Defender's Office regarding the new Restoration and Reentry Division. The team is exploring opportunities to partner in assisting individuals transitioning from the justice system. The reentry team also continues its work with the Garland Police Department on the Focus Deterrence program and is coordinating with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, with plans to align with the Dallas Police Department's program as appropriate.

Research

Dr. Noyes was unable to attend and no update was provided.

Program Update:**Electronic Disposition Reporting (EDR)**

Ms. Charlene Randolph and Ms. Ellyce Lindberg provided a detailed update on Electronic Disposition Reporting. They explained that Dallas County must achieve a 90 percent arrest closure rate by August 1, based on arrests from 2020 through 2024, in order to remain compliant with the applicable grant requirements. The presenters emphasized that the requirement affects not only county funding but also grant-funded programs and organizations throughout Dallas County.

The presenters reported that more than 7,000 open arrests remained to be closed with approximately 33 business days remaining. They explained that an open arrest can be closed when the arresting agency drops the matter, the prosecutor rejects or no-bills the case, or the case is filed and subsequently disposed by the court. Accurate matching of case and arrest information is required throughout the process. Law enforcement agencies were asked to actively work the agency-specific lists that had been distributed and communicate questions or data issues to the EDR team.

Ms. Randolph and Ms. Lindberg also described continuing data and system challenges. Changes involving Odyssey and other system processes have affected the visibility and matching of cases. Examples discussed included situations where the agency that physically made an arrest was different from the agency associated with the underlying warrant, which could prevent the appropriate agency from viewing or closing the arrest. Incorrect prosecutor assignments, ORI information, or case identifiers can also result in a case appearing open even when the court has completed the appropriate action. The EDR team continues to hold biweekly stakeholder meetings and has added additional coordination to identify the remaining cases and resolve system and data issues.

Members discussed the importance of establishing a more proactive process after the August 1 deadline so that stakeholders can address recurring issues before the next reporting cycle. The presenters indicated that they are working with DPS and other partners on training and booking procedures and will continue stakeholder meetings to improve the process going forward.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

Announcements:

Commissioner Garcia announced that the next CJAB General Membership meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.